

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12998 161512Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /126 W

-----113435 171505Z /45

R 161505Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9192
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12998

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG TZ UR CU
SUBJECT: SOVIET AND CUBAN ATTITUDES TOWARD ERITREA

1. DIRECTOR MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AHMED SIDQI INFORMED
EMBOFFS MAY 16 THAT, ACCORDING TO RECENTLY DEPARTED
TANZANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, SPLIT DEVELOPING
BETWEEN CUBANS AND SOVIETS OVER HOW TO PROCEED IN
ERITREA. TANZANIANS BELIEVE THAT CUBANS DEFINITELY
RELUCTANT TO BECOME MILITARILY INVOLVED ON GROUND IN
ERITREA, FOR FEAR OF DAMAGING CUBA'S REPUTATION AND
OF GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN PROTRACTED MILITARY STRUGGLE.

2. SOVIETS ON OTHER HAND, HAVE TOLD TANZANIANS THAT
MOSCOW FAVORS LIMITED CUBAN COMBAT PRESENCE IN ERITREA,
TO HELP ETHIOPIANS GAIN SOLID FIRST-ROUND ADVANTAGE OVER
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ERITREANS. MOSCOW THEN FAVORS MOVING FROM BATTLEFIELD
TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EVENTUAL DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR
ERITREA BUT BELIEVES THAT CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN
ERITREA PROBABLY ONLY WAY TO FORCE ERITREANS TO NEGO-
TIATING TABLE.

3. TANZANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OPINED TO EGYPTIANS

THAT CUBAN MOTIVES FOR NON-INVOLVEMENT MILITARILY IN
ERITREA RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD. IN TANZANIAN VIEW,
SOVIETS ARE DEVIOUS PARTY BECAUSE MOSCOW MANEUVERING FOR
REGIONAL ADVANTAGE THROUGHOUT HORN AND DISCOMFITURE OF
CUBAN ALLIES IN ERITREA SECONDARY TO THIS GOAL. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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